

House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE

Toni Bradford

Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore

8410 Wildcat Drive

Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603-9112

Phone: 870-879-5270 Residence e-mail: bradfordt@arkleg.state.ar.us

DISTRICT 18

Counties: Part Jefferson County Part Cleveland County Part Pulsaki County

COMMITTEES

Education

Early Childhood Subcommittee

Vice Chairperson,
City, County and Local Affairs
Chairperson,
Planning Subcommittee

Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology

Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

January 7, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Commissioner Michael J. Copps Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I commend your service with the Federal Communications Commission and appreciate all you do to ensure fairness and open access with regards to broadband services. That said, as you review implementing proposed rules and regulations with regards to net neutrality, I hope you will carefully consider all possible implications — positive and negative — which might occur because of new regulations.

Education is critical to ensuring the success of our young citizens, and as a retired educator and current member of the Arkansas House of Representatives, I work hard to ensure our schoolchildren receive the necessary tools to learn, to graduate and to become productive members of our state. The Internet is one such tool which is vital to better prepare students for a global, knowledge-based economy.

As you know, in education it is crucial that we have fair, affordable, reliable and open access to high-speed Internet and applications. Without ensuring access to broadband service first, we'll fail our students. We cannot create policy that may have a chilling effect on the private investment and technological research necessary to bring a faster, more reliable Internet to every American.

By implementing additional rules and regulations, the FCC may force companies to reallocate already shrinking resources at the expense of research, development and infrastructure buildout. Such regulations on the broadband industry will hinder expansion of services to many communities in my state, and to the students in those communities and classrooms.

I urge you to consider *all* possible impacts of the proposed net neutrality rules and avoid any such actions that might hamper a quality and equitable education for all our students.

Sincerely, Snadford

Toni Bradford State Representative

TB/mlj